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First Annual Small Towns Symposium

Summary:

(May 28, 2003)-June 10-11, 2003, University of Minnesota, Morris.

Musicians extraordinaire Peter Ostroushko and Dirk Freymuth will provide the entertainment on the eve of the First Annual Small Towns Symposium, to be held June 10 and 11 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The public is invited to both the evening performance and the next day's Symposium. A complete agenda for the Symposium is included within this article.

Ostroushko has come to be regarded as one of the finest mandolin and fiddle players in acoustic music. His tours have taken him to the stages of clubs, performing arts centers, music festivals and theaters across North America and Europe. He has played with such renowned entertainers as Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Chet Atkins, but his hometown Minneapolis music scene has provided a variety of musical styles in which he remains unequalled. In addition, Ostroushko has served as past music director for "A Prairie Home Companion."

Freymuth performs throughout the U.S., Europe and Canada, playing everything from rock and jazz to medieval and traditional music. He is a compelling live performer on acoustic and electric guitar, lute, banjo, viola da gamba and other stringed instruments. He is an innovative, in-demand session guitar player, and a creative composer and arranger of pop, classical and international music for recordings, performance and film.

The Symposium, intended for leaders and citizens from across Minnesota from county commissioners to citizen action groups to extension educators and city managers, will help understand how the past century of change may guide in the research, programs, and policies of the future.

Titled "Rural Minnesota: A Century of Change," this event is designed to examine, describe, and discuss the changes witnessed in the last 100 years. Topics include population, demography, economics, and politics, along with displays and exhibits, and informal networking.

The agenda for the Symposium is:

Tuesday, June 10

*6:30pm Early registration, reception for networking, viewing displays and exhibits.

*7:30pm Peter Ostroushko and Dirk Freymuth concert, Edson Auditorium, UMM Student Center

Wednesday, June 11

*8am Registration

*9am Welcome to UMM and Greetings from Morris, Minnesota Sam Schuman, Chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Carol Wilcox, Mayor, City of Morris

*9:10am Opening Remarks Robert Bergland, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (1977-80)

*9:30am The Distribution and Growth of Minnesota's Small Towns

John Fraser Hart - Department of Geography, University of Minnesota

*10:30am BREAK

*10:45am Demography of a Changing Population: 1900-2000 Martha McMurry - Minnesota Department of Administration (formerly MN Planning)

*11:45am LUNCHEON

*1pm The Economy and Politics of Rural Minnesota Jack Geller - Center for Rural Policy and Development

*1:45pm The "First", "Second," and "Third" Minnesota

Randy Cantrell - Center for Applied Rural Innovation, University of Nebraska and Benjamin Winchester - Center for Small Towns, University of Minnesota, Morris

*2:30pm BREAK

*2:45pm Panel Discussion of Future Small Town Research

Joe Amato will join the other presenters to provide their reactions to the day and thoughts about the direction of research needs for small towns.

*3:30 Closing Remarks: Future Challenges Facing Minnesota's Small Towns

Paul Olson, President, Blandin Foundation

"This is an excellent opportunity to both understand and celebrate small towns," said Roger McCannon, director of the Center for Small Towns.

Advanced tickets for the June 10 performance are available at the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance, on Sixth Street and Atlantic Avenue, or the Center for Small Towns, located in the Community Services building on the Morris campus. Performance tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$8 for seniors and those 18 and under, and \$6 for UMM students. The evening concert is co-sponsored by the PRCA and the Center for Small Towns.

Conference fee, which includes tickets for the evening performance as well as for the symposium, is \$45 per person. Contact Barb Hesse, the Center for Small Towns at hessebj@mrs.umn.edu, or 320-589-6451 with questions or to register.

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